

Sitka Tribe of Alaska

Tribal Government for Sitka, Alaska



February 24, 2021

Director
Office of Child Care
330 C ST SW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20201

Dear OCC Director:

This letter describes how Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) plans to use the Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) awarded under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). We understand that this description will be used for the purpose of informing the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families and Congress how our Lead Agency anticipates using the funds to support the child care needs in our jurisdiction.

It has been almost five years since Sitka Tribe of Alaska conducted its last tribal needs assessment. Needs for childcare have likely changed over that time, due to the pandemic as well as other factors. The needs of licensed childcare providers in our area have also changed due to the pandemic, and our region faces severe economic challenges over the next 18 months as a result of the pandemic that may create new childcare needs. We feel that our community would benefit from a current assessment of the need for early childhood education and care services, and a better understanding of the needs and capacity of our licensed providers. Award of CCDF CRRSA funding offers the opportunity for us to determine how we can use our ongoing allocation of CCDF funds to better meet the needs for childcare in our community. STA intends to allocate up to \$100,000 of its CCDF CRRSA funding as follows:

- (1) to conduct a robust assessment of the need for early childhood education and care among families that include children who are tribal citizens;
- (2) assess the need for additional support to families and licensed childcare providers to ensure stability, sustainability and quality of early childhood education and care;
- (3) determine whether there is need for additional licensed providers or expansion existing facilities to serve tribal families;
- (4) develop a plan to meet these needs using the Tribe's CCDF funds, focusing on pandemic-related assistance, one-time investments and support that can be sustained over time given STA's anticipated allocation of CCDF funds; and

- (5) develop and implement public information strategies to inform eligible families about the safety and benefits of early childhood education and care, especially during the pandemic, as well as the financial assistance that STA can provide.

STA will follow its procurement policy to hire a consultant to assist with this project. We anticipate conducting procurement in the second quarter of 2021. Work on the needs assessment and planning will begin by July 1, 2021 and will be complete by March 31, 2022. Work on the public information strategies may begin during this timeline or by April 1, 2022 and will continue through the deadline for expenditure of grant funds.

STA has not determined how it will use its remaining \$45,204 in CRRSA funding.

ed for virus mitigation policies and procedures. Our timeline for
completion of the ne ill allow ST

cc: Paul Noski, Regional Program Manager, Office of Child Care, Region 10
Joshua Lee, Program Specialist, Office of Child Care, Region 10